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the New Madrid earthquake. Science, apparently, is not favored by those having charge of the State Library, if we can judge from the catalogue of the botanical literature which it contains. The Academy should endeavor to change this. Certainly Science should be as well treated as literature in a state library. Mr. R. E. Call revises the *Unios* allied to *U. parvus*, doing it in a way to please those who do not believe, with the late Dr. Lea, that we have over 600 fresh water clams in the United States. There are two or three papers on fishes, but most important is one by Evermann and Scoville upon the spawning of the blue back salmon of the Pacific rivers. These studies were made in the lakes of Idaho and the conclusion is drawn that these fish spawn but once and then die, and that the well known mutilations are received on the spawning beds while making their nest.

The Academy is trying to make a thorough biological survey of the state and hence the local lists published have no little value. These include molluscs, birds, fishes, the bird notes of Mr. Butler being especially valuable from their fullness. Prof. Stanley Coulter reports upon the collections of plants—nearly a thousand species—that have come into the possession of the Academy; but the first place in importance, though the last in the volume, should be given Prof. Eigenmann's report of the biological survey of a limited fauna—that of Turkey Lake. The physical features of the lake are described in detail and small collections are reported upon by several persons but most interesting and valuable are the studies of variation, the preliminary stages of which are reported upon. Such studies carried on in this manner would be of great value did they only give us results of use in systematic science; but they promise more than that.

The State of Indiana for two years past has published the Proceedings of the Academy, and it should continue to do so. There is not a state organization of similar character anywhere which is doing better work than is this. Its members are working for the good of the State, and this without any hope of gain. The State should make the results of these labors accessible to all.—J. S. K.

Beal's Grasses of North America.¹—About ten years ago Dr. Beal, brought out his useful Vol. I, and now we have the companion volume after many years of waiting. The first volume treated the subject somewhat agriculturally while here we have a scientific description of every species occurring in North America, including all the cultivated species also.

¹ *Grasses of North America*, by W. J. Beal, Ph. D., in two volumes. Vol. II, pp. viii, 706, 8vo, with 126 figures. New York, Henry Holt & Company, 1896.

The plan of the work is excellent and in the main it is well worked out. The sequence followed is that of Hackel in Engler and Prantl's *Naturalischen Pflanzenfamilien*. The characterization of each division and tribe is full and apparently well drawn, and under these the descriptions of genera and species are equally well made. Occasionally one notices a little redundancy of words, but this is a fault which will displease very few. We are so accustomed to short and insufficient descriptions that it is quite gratifying to find descriptions in which there is something to spare. To a large extent these descriptions are new, at least the book is not a mere compilation of scattered descriptions. The student will find here, for the first time, descriptions of all our grasses, 809 native and 103 exotic species. The author has attempted to illustrate nearly every genus, and he has succeeded so well that of 146 genera, 126 are figured. Some of these figures are crude, and the lettering in some is cruder still, but taken as a whole, they are helpful, while many are very well done.

We notice with pleasure that the nomenclature is in accordance with the "Rochester-Madison Rules," and, contrary to what some have feared, the changes in well known names are not many. The synonymy is full, but has not been as carefully collected as it should have been, due probably to the employment of clerical help. We notice with regret also that the range of many species of the Plains has not been accurately given, although authentic lists, and even herbaria, could have readily been consulted. These errors of omission and commission are, however, not so great as to be seriously harmful, and they can easily be corrected in a second edition. As it is, the work will be very useful, and American botanists are deeply indebted to the author, for completing this laborious task.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Brush's Determinative Mineralogy and Blowpipe Analysis.²—This most valuable text-book on blowpipe analysis, with tables for the determination of Mineral species by blowpipe methods has long been the standard text used in our colleges. The first part (Blowpipe Analysis) has now been entirely rewritten and enlarged from 62 to 163 pages. The valuable tables which were based on von Kobell's *Tafeln zur Bestimmung der Mineralien* are now in process of revision for a later edition of the work. As these tables comprise but 33 double pages against 163 pages of the text devoted to blowpipe analy-

² *Fourteenth Edition, Revised and Enlarged*, by Prof. S. L. Penfield. Wiley, \$3.50.